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Gardner-Webb ADN Program Meets Student's Educational Needs

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Office of University
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September 28, 2016

Ashley Frady ('17) Values Class Sizes, Flexible Scheduling and Caring Instructors

After spending over a year preparing for medical school, Ashley Frady ('17) of Gastonia, N.C., sensed a calling to missions and the nursing field. "The Lord really began to speak to me. I realized that I enjoyed caring for people and building relationships with them in some of their most desperate times," Frady recalled. "I searched for 'top nursing programs in the southeast,' and Gardner-Webb was the first on the list."

She visited the campus, learned about the Hunt School of Nursing and discovered the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) suited her educational needs. "Gardner-Webb accommodated both my desire to commute and the flexibility I needed with clinical times and lecture schedules," she affirmed. "I was also very attracted to the small class sizes and the ability to build relationships with classmates and teachers."

One class where Frady experienced the student-instructor dynamic was in the Health Assessment Lab with nursing instructor, Sharon Creed-Hall. The lab is where students learn how to perform a head-to-toe health assessment. "Although Ms. Creed-Hall's checkoffs were tedious, she never failed to make us all laugh during practice or to send us encouraging emails," Frady related. "She showed her genuine care for us as whole students from the beginning of the semester by asking us questions about our personal well-being as well as our academic well-being."

In all of her classes, Frady appreciated the way the nursing faculty shared their own experiences with students. "They have made me feel comfortable and capable to achieve my dreams to be a nurse someday," Frady reflected. "I value their authenticity more than anything else, because it shows they are real people who have walked in my shoes and are able to empathize with me."